

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 6, 11, and 22 are amended herein. Claims 1, 4-6, 9-11, 14-15, 22, 26-28, 30, and 32-35 are currently pending.

Applicant acknowledges the allowance of claims 1, 4-5, 30, and 32-35.

Claims 6, 11, and 22 have been amended to generally include the limitation of claim 1 that specifies that the virtual network element manager receives queries from a plurality of virtual network elements for ports available for the virtual network element sending the query.

As amended, claims 6, 11, and 22 are believed to be patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as set forth in the final Office Action for claim 1.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant believes that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would in any way expedite the prosecution of the application, please do not hesitate to call the undersigned at (408) 399-5608.

Respectfully submitted,



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